

Appl. No. 10/816,713
Amdt. Dated Jan. 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 02, 2005

REMARKS

Applicant really appreciates Examiner for the arduous work to examine the present application and allow claims 9 and 10.

In the prior Office Actions, especially the first Office Action, the independent claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Terita (4,681,392) and claims 7-8 are rejected under § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Terita.

In response, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections for the following reasons:

Claims 1-6 have been canceled.

In regard to claim 7:

Claim 7 calls for a compliant section 12 comprising a pair of slots 122 extending through said compliant section in a thickness direction of said compliant section which is perpendicular to said longitudinal direction. According to FIGS. 5-8 of Terita in which the wings (24) are formed by bending the flange (23), Terita essentially discloses a pair of slots NOT extending through the compliant section in a thickness direction but being blocked by the flange (23) around the junction portion with the center web (22). Thus, claim 7 should be patentable over the cited prior art.

In regard to claim 8:

Claim 8 should be allowable since it is dependent from claim 7, directly.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

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